

Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (CYSPI) Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2007
United Way
Wethersfield, CT
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

In Attendance: Allison Case, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Andrea Duarte, DMHAS; Zephia Hunte for Allyson Nadeau, CT Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP); Amy James, University of CT Health Center (UCHC); Marianne McDougall, DMHAS intern; Susan Moores, United Way of CT; Scott Newgass, State Department of Education (SDE); Aliza Porth, Enfield Youth Services; Barbara Sheldon, CT BHP; Judith Stonger, CT Clearinghouse; Bill Turek, SDE; Faith Vos Winkel, Office of the Child Advocate

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Contracts

- As of this week, all contracts have been finalized at DMHAS and mailed out to providers for signatures.
- Andrea is waiting to hear back from Connecticut State Universities (CSU).
- SMH is on board and will be sending out materials to CSU schools in August and will also be providing training for high schools 8/28.

Evaluation

- Andrea and Amy completed 2 elements of cross-site reporting requirements earlier this month.
- Product Services Inventory described approximately 10 activities.
- Referral Network Survey identified 3 dyads of senior and mid-level administrators at United Way (Linda Moriber and Sue Moores); Wheeler (Susan Walkama and Judy Stonger) and St. Francis-Quirk (Dr. Schichor and Freddie Valentin) that will be interviewed later this Fall by ORC Macro.
- IRB application for evaluation of college component has been submitted; hope is that it will not be viewed as human subjects research as data will be aggregated and reported at the system level.
- Contractor is working on final revisions to electronic data entry system, including a monthly census measure that will be expressed as a ratio of visits per clinician.
- A second article on the effectiveness of SOS has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Colleges

- DMHAS and UCHC met with Directors of Counseling Centers from CSU schools 7/6 to discuss crisis response policies and procedures. Schools vary widely in approaches from locking students out of housing and disallowing a return to class prior to an assessment by counseling center staff to essentially no response or action following transport for a suspected mental health incident or psychiatric evaluation.

- Above led to discussion about appropriate risk management at schools and concern that exclusionary/punitive policies both open schools up for litigation and fly in the face of anti-stigma message. Such policies may discourage help-seeking behavior.
- Also discussed was the need to disconnect this initiative and many other mental health support activities/efforts from the Virginia Tech incident. There is a tendency to link everything back to the tragedy and it is in most cases inappropriate.
- Both formal and informal systems exist on campuses to support students and it is important that a common message (and action/protocol) be established. This may challenge current norms and involvement in the CYSPI may illuminate discrepancies.
- The positive effect of any clinical intervention can be due to fidelity in treatment or personal relationship and it may be difficult to determine which.

Active Minds on Campus

- Non-profit organization that develops and supports student-run mental health awareness, education and advocacy chapters on college campuses throughout the country. Provides materials and technical support free of charge.
- Should be both added to the Community Awareness Campaign mini-grant program and presented to CSU directors and administrators as a resource.

Institute of Living

- The Institute of Living has a seminar series that targets risk management around mental health issues, including suicide, for high school administrators. They are expanding this service to college administrators. Andrea spoken with the Chief of Psychiatry, Dr. Schwartz, who is interested in and supports the CYSPI.

Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Reauthorization Act 2007

- GLSM Reauthorization Act was introduced in the US Senate on 5/24 as S.1514 by Senators Dodd (D-CT), Smith (R-OR) and Reed (D-RI), and in the US House of Representatives as H.R. 2511 by Representative Gordon (D-TN). CYSAB and CYSPI stakeholders encouraged to support. Andrea has been in touch with DMHAS' legislative liaison and has drafted a support letter for CT Youth Suicide Advisory Board (YSAB) for review. Deanna must have her legislative liaison at DCF review and gain approval in order for the letter to be sent to CT Congress people, as YSAB is a legislatively mandated body under their direction. All YSAB members must approve in order for Deanna to sign off.
- Membership is asked to review draft letter and contact legislative liaisons at their agencies as needed for approval to sign.
- Andrea will also draft a support letter from CYSPI Stakeholders (DMHAS and sub-recipients of GLSM funding). DMHAS can/will act as lead on this letter.

Community Campaign

- Wheeler will be coordinating an event at the CT Clearinghouse 9/6 at 2 PM to review CYSPI progress and to launch the Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Education and Awareness Campaign. Senator Dodd, other Legislators, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Out of the Darkness Walk Coordinators will be invited to attend, along with CTN. Notice will go out on CT Clearinghouse listserv.

- Mini-grant application was also reviewed and will be revised to include Active Minds on Campus (described above). Food will be an allowable expense, however, indirect services or overhead will not be supported.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

- AFSP has developed a new post-vention model that trains (2+ year) suicide survivors to assist new survivors. Representatives are coming to Enfield 8/8 to present on this and other new initiatives.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, August 21 - 9:00 to 10:30 AM

Tuesday, October 16 - 9:00 to 10:30 AM

Tuesday, December 18 - 9:00 to 10:30 AM

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Handouts: June 19 Meeting Minutes, Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program Description; Active Minds on Campus Background Information; Dodd May 25 Press Release regarding GLSM Act Reauthorization; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Press Release regarding GLSM Act Reauthorization; Mental Health Liaison Group GLSM Act Reauthorization Support Letter; draft CYSAB GLSM Act Reauthorization Support Letter; draft Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Education and Awareness Campaign Mini-Grant Application; Suicide Attempts Among Patients Starting Depression Treatment with Medications or Psychotherapy Article; Antidepressants and Suicidal Behavior: Cause or Cure? Editorial; and 211 Connecticut and United States Suicide Statistics.